

Eastern Asia Minor and the Caucasus in Remote and Classical Antiquity

Iranian Material

Available at Internet Archive: [Iranian Sources](#)

Prepared by Robert Bedrosian

6th-4th Centuries B.C.

[Achaemenid Inscriptions](#), at Avesta.org.

A multilingual HTML version of the Old Persian inscriptions is available at Internet Archive (direct download): [Old Persian Inscriptions](#).

[The Foreign Trade of Armenia in the Period of the Ancient Persian Empire](#), by H. A. Manandian. At Internet Archive.

Encyclopaedia Iranica entry: [Achaemenid Rule in the Caucasus](#), by Bruno Jacobs.

3rd Century B.C.-3rd Century A.D.

[Online Texts Concerning Parthia](#), at parthia.com.

[The Development of Trade and Cities in the Reign of Tigran the Second](#), by H. A. Manandian. At Internet Archive.

Encyclopaedia Iranica entry: [Arsacids](#), by Cyril Toumanoff, Mary Boyce, and others.

Cyril Toumanoff's *Studies in Christian Caucasian History* (Georgetown, 1963):

Searchable pdf files, at Internet Archive:

[I. The Social Background of Christian Caucasia](#)

[II. States and Dynasties of Caucasia in the Formative Centuries](#)

[III. The Orontids of Armenia](#)

[IV. Iberia \[Georgia\] between Chosroid and Bagratid Rule](#)

[V. The Armeno-Georgian Marchlands](#)

Cyril Toumanoff's [Manuel de généalogie et de chronologie pour l'histoire de la Caucasic chrétien](#) (Arménie - Géorgie - Albanie) Rome, 1976.

[The Political History of Iran under the Arsacids](#), by A.D.H. Bivar, from *Cambridge History of Iran*, Volume 3(1) (Cambridge, 1983), E. Yarshater, editor, Chapter 2, pp. 21-99 with the book's general bibliography and chapter two's bibliography, map and tables, in 89 indexed pdf pages.

[Prolegomena to a Study of the Iranian Aspects in Arsacid Armenia](#), by Nina G. Garsoian, from *Hande's Amso'reay* 90 (1976), columns 177-234, in 29 pdf pages.

[The Arshakuni Dynasty \(A.D. 12-\[180?\]-428\)](#), by Nina G. Garsoïan. The download contains chapter 4 from *The Armenian People from Ancient to Modern Times* (New York, 1997), Richard G. Hovannisian, ed., volume 1, pp. 63-94, and the book's bibliography, pp. 327-349, in 57 pdf pages.

[A Political History of Parthia](#), by Neilson C. Debevoise (Chicago, 1938), in 351 bookmarked and searchable pdf pages. Contents: 1. The Growth of Parthia; 2. Early Foreign Relations; 3. The Indo-Iranian Frontier; 4. Drums of Carrhae; 5. The Struggle in Syria; 6. Antony and Armenia; 7. The Contest for the Euphrates; 8. The Campaign of Corbulo; 9. Parthia in Commerce and Literature; 10. Trajan in Armenia and Mesopotamia; 11. The Downfall of the Parthian Empire; Rulers: Parthian, Seleucid, Roman Emperors; Map.

[Parchments of the Parthian Period from Avroman in Kurdistan](#), in 51 pdf pages. This classic study was published in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies* vol. 35(1915), pp. 98-141. Its author, the philologist Ellis H. Minns, describes and translates the texts of three parchment documents found in a cave in Kuh-e Salan in 1909. The cave is near the village of Shahr-i Avroman in Kurdistan. Two documents are written in Greek and date from the Seleucid era (88/87 B.C. and 22/21 B.C.). The third, in Parthian, dates from about A.D. 33. The Greek documents are deeds for the sale of half a vineyard, while the Parthian document is for the sale of additional ploughland. Full of intriguing information demonstrating the complexity of land transactions in this period, and including the names of Armenia's King Tigranes (Tigran II, 95-55 B.C.), his wives, and daughters. Invaluable primary source material of historical, linguistic, and legal importance.

[Parthia/Parthians](#), selection of works at Internet Archive.

[Arsacids](#), selection of works at Internet Archive.

[Parthia](#), Wikipedia article.

3rd-7th Centuries A.D.

At Avesta.org:

[Karnamak: The Deeds of Ardashir](#) First Sasanian King (224-240).

[Kartir's Inscription](#) on the Kabah of Zoroaster.

[Kartir's Inscription](#) at Naqsh-e Rostam.

A multilingual HTML version of the *Karnamak* is available at Internet Archive (direct download): [Book of the Deeds of Ardashir son of Babag](#).

[Sassanid Persia](#), by Arthur Christensen, from *Cambridge Ancient History* volume XII, The Imperial Crisis and Recovery, A.D. 193-324 (Cambridge, 1939). Written by the renowned Iranist and author of the classic *L'Iran sous les Sassanides* (Paris, 1936), Chapter 4 includes: 1. The Sassanian Empire: Political History; 2. Organization and Administration of the Sassanian State; 3. Social and Economic Conditions; 4. The State-Religion and Foreign Religions; 5. The Arts; 6. The Persian Wars with Rome (written by W. Ensslin). Includes Chapter 4 (pp. 109-137), and the volume's Abbreviations and Bibliographies in 42 searchable, indexed pdf pages. At Internet Archive.

[L'Iran sous les Sassanides](#) (Copenhagen, 1936) by Arthur Christensen, in 564 bookmarked and searchable pdf pages. This foundational work remains a major source on the Sassanians/Sasanids, a dynasty which ruled Iran and its neighbors from about 224 to 651.

[The Great Inscription of Shapur I](#), W. B. Henning's celebrated article from *Bulletin of the School of Oriental Studies*, Vol. 9, No. 4 (1939), pp. 823-849.

[Third Century Iran, Sapor and Kartir](#), by Martin Sprengling (Chicago, 1953), in 167 bookmarked and searchable pdf pages, with plates. A classic work which describes, transliterates, and translates several important Sasanian inscriptions, and discusses their significance. Contents: Introduction; Shahpuhr KZ (Kaaba of Zoroaster); Kartir (KZ); Kartir (Naqsh-e-Rustam); Kartir (Naqsh-e-Rajab); Inscription in Book-Pahlavi of a Fragment of a Broken Column; The Greek of Sapor KZ and Roman History; Plates.

[Writings of Martin Sprengling](#), at Internet Archive.

[The Letter of Tansar](#), translated by Mary Boyce (Rome, 1968), in 87 pdf pages. At Internet Archive.

[Letter of Tansar](#), Wikipedia entry.

[The Persian War of the Emperor Maurice \(582-602\)](#), by Martin J. Higgins. This classic work (a chronology of the period, with a brief history of the Persian calendar) is Higgins' doctoral dissertation (Washington, D.C., 1939), in 91 pdf pages. At Internet Archive.

Available at Internet Archive is a multilingual HTML version of Procopius of Caesarea's works relating to Persia, including *The Persian War*, *On Buildings*, and *Anecdota/Secret History* (direct download): [Procopius on Iran](#).

[The Political History of Iran under the Sasanians](#), by Richard N. Frye, from *Cambridge History of Iran*, Volume 3(1) (Cambridge, 1983), E. Yarshater, editor, Chapter 4, pp. 116-180 with the book's general bibliography and chapter four's bibliography and tables, in 74 indexed pdf pages.

[The Marzpanate \(428-652\)](#), by Nina G. Garsoian. Chapter 5 from *The Armenian People from Ancient to Modern Times* (New York, 1997), Richard G. Hovannisian, ed., volume 1, pp. 95-115, and book's bibliography, pp. 327-349, in 46 pdf pages.

[Trade and Trade Centers in Armenia in the Roman-Parthian and the Byzantine-Sasanian Period](#), by H. A. Manandian.

Encyclopaedia Iranica entry: [Class System in the Parthian and Sasanian Periods](#), by Mansour Shaki.

Encyclopaedia Iranica entry: [Sasanian Dynasty](#), by A. Shapur Shahbazi.

[Sasanians/Sasanids](#), selection of works at Internet Archive.

[Sassanid Empire](#), Wikipedia article. Excellent summary and links.

Mythology

[Iranian Mythology](#), by Albert J. Carnoy, at Internet Archive.

[Analogies in Iranian and Armenian Folklore](#), by Eugene Wilhelm.

[Իրանեան տարրերն իւր ժողովրդական հաւատքին մէջ Iranian tarrner hay zhoghovrdakan hawatk'in me'j \[Iranian Elements in Armenian Folk Belief\]](#), by Joh. Hambroer, in 18 bookmarked pdf pages. This is an Armenian translation, made by E. Boghosian, of a German-

language article written for the journal *Hande's Amso'reay*. It was serialized in 67(1953), columns 196-205; and 68(1954) columns 544-561. The author challenges earlier views on the Armenian figure Գրող/Grogh (the Writer), whom he compares to the Iranian Srosh. The Armenian երկնային աքաղաղ/erknayin ak'aghaghe" (heavenly cockerel) is compared to the Iranian Parodash.

[Eastern Asia Minor and the Caucasus in Ancient Mythologies](#) (Indo-Iranian Mythology section), by Robert Bedrosian.

[Iranian epic literature](#), at Internet Archive.

Selected Writings of Armen Petrosyan, at Internet Archive: [in Armenian](#); [in English](#); [in Russian](#).

Extensive additional material on another page of this website: [Armenian Folklore and Mythology Resources at Internet Archive](#).

Art History

Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art:

[Iran 8000-2000 B.C.](#)

[Iran 2000-1000 B.C.](#)

[Iran 1000 B.C.- 1 A.D.](#)

[Iran 1 - 500 A.D.](#)

Google Images:

[Achaemenid Art](#)

[Parthian Art](#)

[Sasanian Art](#)

[Bibliography for the Art of Ancient Iran](#), by Edith Porada, in 21 pdf pages. This bibliography, which appeared in *Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society* 9(1977) pp. 67-84 was created by the renowned art historian Edith Porada and consists of a selection of books, articles, archaeological reports, and even reviews which contain valuable information on the art of Iran. Included is a second bibliography of *Additions*, prepared by Susan Jaye Pattulo at Porada's request, which appeared in *JANES* 10(1978) pp. 109-111. At Internet Archive.

[The Art of Ancient Iran](#). Pre-Islamic Cultures, by Edith Porada, with the collaboration of R. H. Dyson and contributions by C. K. Wilkinson (New York, 1965), in 276 bookmarked and searchable pdf pages, lavishly illustrated with color plates and monochrome drawings.

[Ancient Arts of Iran: Images, Texts, and Studies](#), in 155 bookmarked pdf pages. This file contains clickable links to Google Images, Wikipedia, Internet Archive, The Ancient World Online (AWOL), Encyclopaedia Iranica, Sacred-Texts, and the Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History. Also included are studies by art historians Daniel Schlumberger (Parthian Art), Dorothy Shepherd (Sasanian Art), Prudence Harper (Sasanian Silver), and Guitty Azarpay (The Development of the Arts in Transoxiana).

Armeniaca/Caucasica

[Zoroastrianism in Armenia](#), by James R. Russell (Watertown, MA, 1987). This thorough treatment of the topic is a revision of Russell's Ph.D. dissertation (1982). Also available at Internet Archive is Russell's collection of scholarly articles (Cambridge, 2004), many of which deal with folklore and mythology: [Armenian and Iranian Studies](#) (for borrowing only).

[Armenia \(Zoroastrian\)](#), by Mardiros Ananikian, from *Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*, vol. 1 (1908), pp. 794-802. Ananikian's entry, together with essays by A. H. Sayce (Vannic/Urartian Religion) and F. Macler (Christianity in Armenia), ERE, vol. 1, pp. 793-807, in 17 searchable pdf.

[Where Was Zoroaster's Native Place?](#), by A. V. Williams Jackson, from *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 15 (1893), pp. 221-232, in 13 pdf pages.

[Agnatic Groups in Ancient Iran](#), by Anahit Perikhanian, in 47 pdf pages. This English translation appeared in *Soviet Anthropology and Archeology* volume 9, 1970 - Issue 1, pp. 3-49. The original Russian was published in *Vestnik drevnei istorii [Bulletin of Ancient History]*, No.3 (1968), pp. 28-52. Perikhanian discusses the kinship structure of families/clans and the common ownership of types of property (such as a mill or a pasture for livestock) in Iran, India and Armenia: similarities between the Indian *gotra* and Iranian *nafa* agnatic structures, ancient Iranian worship, laws, and contractual obligations, next-of-kin marriage, the Armenian *Gahnamak* or Charter of Ranks, and the Avroman Parchments.

[Iranian Society and Law](#), by Anahit Perikhanian, in 60 pdf pages, from the *Cambridge History of Iran* (New York, 1983), Volume 3(2), *Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanian Periods*, pp. 627-680 (Chapter 18).

Encyclopaedia Iranica entry: [Family Law](#), by Ziba Mir-Hosseini, Mansour Shaki, and Jeanette Wakin.

[Iran, Armenia, and Georgia](#), by David Marshall Lang, from *Cambridge History of Iran*, 3(1) (Cambridge, 1983) pp. 505-536.

[Iranians in Asia Minor](#), by Leo Raditsa, from *Cambridge History of Iran*, 3(1) (Cambridge, 1983) pp. 100-115.

[Manichaeism and Its Iranian Background](#), by George Widengren, from *Cambridge History of Iran*, 3(2) (Cambridge, 1983) pp. 965-990.

[Some Resources about Manichaeism](#).

[Mazdakism](#), by Ehsan Yarshater (Cambridge, 1983).

[Some Armeniaca and Caucasica from Encyclopaedia Iranica](#).

[Selected Topics in Ancient and Medieval Iranian History from Encyclopaedia Iranica](#).

Selected Writings of:

[Michael Rostovtzeff](#)

[W. W. Tarn](#)

[E. A. Wallis Budge](#)

[Nicholas Adontz](#)

Material at Internet Archive for [Iran/Iranian and Ancient](#).

Material at Ancient World Online for [Persia/Persian and Iran/Iranian](#), and [Achaemenids](#).

Material at Sacred-Texts for [Iran/Persia](#).

[The Oriental Institute Open Access Publications](#), prepared by Charles Jones.

[Ancient Locations](#), a database of archaeological sites, prepared by Charles Jones.

[Persia](#), Google search of Livius.org.

[Iranian Texts](#), Sacred and secular at Avesta.org.

[Site Index for Parthia.com](#). Excellent primary and secondary sources.

[Search Encyclopaedia Iranica](#), at Iranicaonline.org.

The important works of V. V. Latyshev and Ellis H. Minns on the Scythians:

Известия древних греческих и латинских писателей о Скифии и Кавказе [Scythica et Caucasica e veteribus scriptoribus graecis et latinis/Information of Ancient Greek and Latin Authors about Scythia and the Caucasus], by V. V. Latyshev in two volumes: [volume 1](#), (St. Petersburg, 1890) in 709 pdf pages. Greek texts with facing Russian translations; [volume 2](#), (St. Petersburg, 1904) in 463 pdf pages. Latin texts with facing Russian translations.

[Scythians and Greeks](#), by Ellis H. Minns (Cambridge, 1913), in 808 pdf pages.

A Literary History of Persia, by Edward G. Browne. Three of four volumes are available:

[volume 1](#) (London, 1909, repr. of 1902 edition), *From the Earliest Times until Firdawsi*, in 548 pdf pages.

[volume 2](#) (London, 1906), *From Firdawsi to Sa'di*, in 598 pdf pages.

[volume 3](#) (Cambridge, 1928, repr. of 1920 edition), *The Tartar Dominion (1265-1502)*, in 636 pdf pages.

Friedrich von Spiegel

Erânische Altertumskunde, in three volumes:

[volume 1](#) (Leipzig, 1871), Geography, ethnography, ancient history, in 788 pdf pages.

[volume 2](#) (Leipzig, 1873), Religion, history to Alexander the Great, in 654 pdf pages.

[volume 3](#) (Leipzig, 1879), History of states and family life, science, art; General index, in 864 pdf pages.

[Die arische Periode und ihre Zustände](#) (Leipzig, 1887), in 354 pdf pages.

[Iranian Art](#), translated from German by Darab Dastur Peshotan Sanjana, with additional notes (London, 1886), in 77 pdf pages.

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